

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A communication system for a vehicle service station, the communication system
- 2 comprising:
- 3 a local area network (LAN);
- 4 a vehicle having a diagnostic system, a transceiver operable on the LAN, and a
- 5 memory for storing information on the vehicle; and
- 6 a local communication device for the vehicle service station, the local communication
- 7 device operable on the LAN and operable to download the information from the
- 8 vehicle.
- 9

1 2. The communication system of claim 1, wherein the LAN is a wireless LAN and the
2 local communication device is to query for the vehicle transceiver within a coverage area
3 of the LAN.
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1 3. The communication system of claim 1, wherein the LAN is a wireless LAN and the
2 communication system operates such that the local communication device synchronizes
3 service records with the vehicle.
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1 4. The communication system of claim 1, wherein the local communication device
2 queries a vehicle for identification information and provides the identification
3 information for correlation with ownership information in a local database.
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1 5. The communication system of claim 1, wherein the vehicle includes a transceiver
2 operable on a wide area network (WAN) of a network service provider and the local
3 communication device is operable on the WAN, and wherein the local communication
4 device can direct the vehicle diagnostic system, over the WAN, to perform vehicle
5 diagnostics and to download results of the diagnostics back to the local communication
6 device over the WAN.
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1 6. The communication system of claim 5, wherein the local communication device is
2 operable to download a particular diagnostic test application over the WAN for the
3 vehicle diagnostic system to execute.
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1 7. The communication system of claim 5, wherein the local communication device is
2 operable to send information regarding service for the vehicle to a user interface of the
3 vehicle through the LAN and LAN transceiver.
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1 8. The communication system of claim 7, wherein the user interface is operable to
2 allow approval of service to the local communication device through the LAN transceiver
3 and LAN.
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1 9. The communication system of claim 1, wherein the memory of the vehicle is
2 operable to store service record data of the vehicle and is used to download the service
3 record data from the vehicle memory to the local communication device.
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1 10. The communication system of claim 1, wherein, when any vehicle information is
2 to be downloaded, a message indicating the same can be transmitted to a user interface of
3 the vehicle such that a driver of the vehicle can disallow the download if desired.
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1 11. A communication system for a vehicle service station, the communication
2 system comprising:
3 a wireless local area network (LAN);
4 a vehicle having a diagnostic system, a transceiver operable on the local area
5 network, a transceiver operable on a wide area network (WAN) of a network
6 service provider, and a memory for storing information on the vehicle; and
7 a local communication device for the vehicle service station, the local communication
8 device operable on the LAN and operable to query for vehicle transceivers within
9 a coverage area of the LAN and to download the information from the vehicle.

1 12. The communication system of claim 11, wherein the information contains at least
2 one of a vehicle identification number and an odometer reading, and wherein the local
3 communication device provides the information for correlation with ownership
4 information in a local database.

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1 13. The communication system of claim 11, wherein the local communication device
2 is operable on the WAN, and wherein the local communication device can direct the
3 vehicle diagnostic system, over the WAN, to perform vehicle diagnostics and to
4 download results of the diagnostics back to the local communication device over the
5 WAN.

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1 14. The communication system of claim 11, wherein the local communication device
2 is operable to send information regarding service of the vehicle to a user interface of the
3 vehicle through the LAN and LAN transceiver, and to allow approval of service to the
4 local communication device through the user interface, LAN transceiver and LAN.

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1 15. The communication system of claim 11, wherein the memory of the vehicle is
2 operable to store service record data of the vehicle and is used to download the service
3 record data from the vehicle memory to the local communication device.

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1 16. The communication system of claim 11, wherein the local communication device
2 and the user interface are operable to provide an interactive session with a driver of the
3 vehicle to assist in determining required service.
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1 17. A method for communication between a service station and a vehicle with a
2 transceiver operable on a local area network, a diagnostic system, and having a memory
3 for storing information on the vehicle, the method comprising the steps of:
4 querying for a vehicle local area network transceiver within a coverage area of a local
5 area network;
6 downloading identification information from the memory over the local area network;
7 and
8 determining service required for the vehicle.

1 18. The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of correlating the
2 identification information with ownership information in a local database.
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1 19. The method of claim 17, wherein the vehicle includes a transceiver operable over
2 a wide area network, and wherein the determining step includes the substeps of:

3 directing the vehicle diagnostic system, over a wide area network, to perform vehicle
4 diagnostics; and
5 downloading the results of the diagnostics over the wide area network.
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1 20. The method of claim 17, further comprising the steps of:

2 sending information regarding service of the vehicle to the vehicle through the local
3 area network; and
4 allowing approval of service from the vehicle through the local area network.
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1 21. The method of claim 17, further comprising the steps of:

2 storing service record data of the vehicle; and
3 downloading the service record data from the vehicle memory.
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1 22. The method of claim 17, wherein the determining step includes an interactive
2 session with a driver of the vehicle to assist in determining the service required.
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